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Strengthening our Profession: Writing and Reviewing Manuscripts for the Clothing and Textiles Research Journal

Elaine Pedersen

Oregon State University, pedersee@oregonstate.edu

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Strengthening our Profession: Writing and Reviewing Manuscripts for the Clothing and Textiles Research Journal

Session Coordinator/Abstract Author: Elaine L. Pedersen, Editor, Clothing and Textiles Research Journal

Session Presenters: Huantian Cao, Jung Ha-Brookshire, Karen Hyllegard, Byoungcho Jin, Associate Editors for *CTRJ*, and Pam Ulrich VP for Publications

The session was held for individuals interested or involved in reviewing and authoring manuscripts for *CTRJ*. The expected characteristics of a quality manuscript were discussed. Authors were reminded to use the American Psychological Association style (6th edition) and to follow the *CTRJ* submission guidelines for formatting, style, and content of the manuscript. See <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ctrj>, and read "Manuscript Submission -- How to Submit a New Manuscript via the *CTRJ* Portal," especially "Manuscript Preparation." An author and reviewer guideline is available at [<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ctrj>]. Click on "Instructions & Forms" and then on "author and reviewer guide."

The basic sections which apply to most manuscripts are: (a) introduction, (b) review of the literature, (c) method, (d) results, and (3) conclusion. The **introduction** should engage the reader, contain the purpose of the work being discussed, and provide a justification for the study. Statements should be supported with text citations. In the introduction or literature review there should be clear definitions of key concepts/variables and consistent use of the study concepts.

Write the **literature review** to relate directly to the purpose of the study and/or research questions, research objectives, or hypotheses. This section needs to support the justification for the study and contain the contextual background for the study. When hypothesis testing is part of the study, the literature review should include support for the hypotheses. Hypotheses should be well written. The most relevant and recent scholarly work along with important classics, when relevant, need to be included. A theoretical component is also included either in the literature review or in a separate section. In some cases the literature review will contain a discussion of the theory(ies) which were most influential on the development of the study. If theory development is part of the purpose of the study then the theoretical discussion will become part of the results section. For historical work, the literature review would contain important scholarly secondary sources related to the study topic.

The **methods** section is a critical component of the manuscript. The research design (i.e., experimental, survey, grounded theory, etc.) and the specific method(s) used ought to be discussed. For both quantitative and qualitative data, a detailed discussion of the method(s) is needed. This includes, but is not necessarily limited, to a discussion of the population and sampling decisions, data collection techniques, reliability and validity of the data collection process, and data analysis. When quantitative data are collected there are fairly standard expectations of what is to be discussed and means by which to determine reliability and validity. Refer to research methods books for this information. Provide enough detail that your study could be easily replicated. When qualitative data are collected the expectations about method are more varied due to particular inquiry paradigms, but it is equally important to include a detailed discussion of the methods and how reliability and validity (credibility, authenticity, transferability, dependability, confirmability) were determined. Also important is the process by which the qualitative data were analyzed. In an historical study the primary sources would be discussed in this section.

For studies in the area of **textiles, fiber, and polymer sciences** it is critical that enough information on the study is provided for replication. Specific details on equipment and materials are also important. Provide the manufacturer of the textile equipment, the weight and type of fiber, fabric structure, dye, and so forth. Provide details on the specifics of the experimental design. State how many replications of the experiment were performed.

The **results** should connect to the purpose of the study and any research questions, research objectives, or hypotheses. Use tables and figures to help the reader understand your results (where appropriate); include a summary discussion for each table and figure, but do not repeat all of the information found in the table/figure. For qualitative data not only should the presentation of themes be discussed but also a coherent narrative or framework that synthesizes your results. It is also important that you provide support for your reported results such as using participants' quotes. Keep quotations short so your results can include examples of excerpts across the sample. Identify participants clearly, through actual pseudonyms, initials as pseudonyms, or numbers. If the method of grounded theory was used then the newly developed theory or theoretical ideas is/are presented in this section.

The **conclusion** may begin with a short summary but the bulk of this section is a discussion of the major findings – what is the contribution of the results to the literature, what are

the implications of the results for both academicians and others, how will the findings be useful to the profession, what additional research is needed in this area, and so forth? A discussion of the theoretical aspects of the study should be included in the conclusion. If hypotheses were developed and tested from an existing theory then the results of hypothesis testing should be discussed from the perspective of supporting the theory or indicating a need for a revision of the theory. If theory development was part of the purpose of the study then a discussion of the next theory development steps would be included. Any unexpected findings would be included in the discussion. Limitations of the study are also discussed in this section. Discussing the limitations can be framed from the perspective of suggestions for future research.

In general, terms should be used consistently throughout the manuscript; using synonyms often causes misunderstandings for the reader. The concepts/variables that are most important to your work need to be clearly defined (in the introduction, review of literature, or theoretical framework); for quantitative data collection both theoretical and operational definitions need to be provided. Also important to the manuscript is clear and careful writing and logical and clear organization including organized paragraphs. Equally important is correct sentence structure, word use, spelling, grammar, and punctuation (see the APA style manual chapters 2 and 3). Authors should carefully review their manuscript prior to submission for writing and style errors, consistent use of terms, and so forth.

Your abstract and key words are also important. Your key words will both help the Associate Editors find the appropriate reviewers but key words are important in helping scholars find literature in their specialized areas. If you are using an unusual or new method you may wish to identify this as a keyword.

Individuals interested in becoming reviewers for CTRJ are encouraged to submit applications and their vitas to the editor, Elaine Pedersen at pedersee@oregonstate.edu. The CTRJ Reviewer Application Form can be found under "ITAA Publications" on the ITAA Web site.